

II. REMARKS AND CONCLUSION

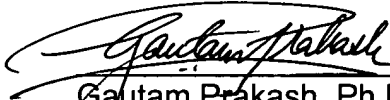
The amendment filed on September 2, 2005 was considered non-compliant because: (1) the claims of the amendment were not presented in ascending numerical order; and (2) claims were missing. In response, the applicants request entry of the claims presented herewith, which are in ascending numerical order and no claims are missing. Claims 148, 150, 175, and 177 to 190 are pending, of which claims 148, 175, and 179 are independent.

As this response is filed within the shortened statutory period, the applicants believe that no fee is due. The applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and request favorable action thereon.

In the event this response is not timely filed, the applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension, along with any additional fees required, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket No. 108064-00049.

Respectfully submitted,

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